

PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2872**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Masahiro GOTO

Group Art Unit: 2872

Application No.: 10/565,242

Examiner: A. LAVARIAS

Filed: January 19, 2006

Docket No.: 126735

For: LIGHT-DIFFUSING SHEET

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the July 1, 2008 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-8 are pending.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over WO 01/04701 to Moshrefzadeh et al. ("Moshrefzadeh") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,649 to Arai. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites "a plurality of wedge-shaped parts, each being embedded on the side of the exit surface of the sheet body...[wherein] an end of each of the wedge-shaped parts on the side of the entrance surface is a flat surface parallel to the entrance surface." Applicants respectfully assert that it would not have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, to try and combine Arai with Moshrefzadeh.

The Office Action asserts that Arai discloses wedge-shaped parts having a flat surface. However, Arai discloses a light modifier sheet for collimating outgoing light. See Fig. 10 and col. 11, lines 30-45 of Arai. By contrast, the purpose of the wedge shapes in both the instant claims and Moshrefzadeh is to diffuse light.

For example, the instant specification explains one of the purposes of the claimed invention is to allow a viewer of an LCD screen to view the image from a wide array of angles. See page 1, lines 8-10 of instant specification. The specification further explains how the recited flat portion, in combination with the recited inclined surfaces of the wedges help diffuses the light in a variety of directions. See Figs. 8-10 of instant specification. Arai, on the other hand, discloses a system for collimating light so that all of the light emanating from the back end of the wedges emerges at a common angle. See Fig. 10 of Arai.

Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have thought the features of Arai, including the flat wedge surface, would aid in the stated purpose of Moshrefzadeh to diffuse light.

Furthermore, the Office Action asserts, as its justification for combination, that it would have been obvious to combine Arai with Moshrefzadeh "for the purpose of allowing light to be transmitted into the wedge-shaped parts without undue light scattering back-reflection." However, this assertion is contrary to the stated expectations of those skilled in the art, as extrapolated from the text of Moshrefzadeh.

At the time the present invention was made, those skilled in the art would not have believed that it was necessary for the light to be transmitted through wedge-shaped parts having a low refractive index. Rather, those skilled in the art would have believed that in order to ensure good light diffusing effect, it would be better to prevent light from entering and transmitting through the wedge-shaped parts. Moshrefzadeh itself supports this conclusion. Moshrefzadeh discloses that a light absorbing material is included in the wedge-

shaped parts. Thus, Moshrefzadeh discloses means for preventing light from being transmitted into the wedge-shaped parts. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have thought allowing light to be transmitted into the wedge-shaped parts without undue light scattering back-reflection was a useful feature. As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have thought it obvious to try and combine the features of Arai with Moshrefzadeh because he would not have believed the combination would succeed.

For at least the above reasons, it would not have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, to try and combine Arai with Moshrefzadeh. As such, the rejection of claims 1-8 lacks merit. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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